

Activity: Environmental Compliance and Review

Activity Summary

	2004 Enacted	2005 Estimate	FY 2006			Change From 2005 (+/-)
			Uncontr/ Related Changes	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Environmental Compliance and Review	396	391	+8	0	399	+8
Total Requirements	396	391	+8	0	399	+8
<i>Total FTE Requirements</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>0</i>

Authorization

16 U.S.C. 460I - 469I-3	The Outdoor Recreation Act
42 U.S.C. 4321 - 4347	National Environmental Policy Act
49 U.S.C. 303	Department of Transportation Act
16 U.S.C. 1271 - 1287	Wild and Scenic Rivers Act
16 U.S.C. 460I - 460I-11	Land and Water Conservation Fund Act
16 U.S.C. 3501 - 3510	Coastal Barrier Resources Act
23 U.S.C. 101	Federal Aid Highway Act of 1976
16 U.S.C 1nt et seq.	National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978
16 U.S.C. 1241 - 1251	National Trails System Act

Mission Overview

The NR&P Environmental Compliance and Review activity supports the National Park Service mission by contributing to four goals for the National Park Service: 1) Natural and cultural resources are protected, restored, and maintained in good condition and managed within their broader context; 2) The National Park Service contributes to knowledge about natural and cultural resources and associated values; management decisions about resources and visitors are based on adequate scholarly and scientific information; 3) Visitors safely enjoy and are satisfied with the availability, accessibility, diversity, and quality of park facilities, services and appropriate recreational opportunities; 4) Assisted through Federal funds and programs, the protection of recreational opportunities is achieved through formal mechanisms to ensure continued access for public recreation use. These goals directly support the Department of the Interior's Strategic Plan goals to protect the Nation's natural, cultural and heritage resources and provide recreation opportunities for America.

Activity Overview

The Environmental Compliance and Review activity provides review and comment on environmental impact statements, Federal licensing and permitting applications, and other actions which may impact areas of National Park Service jurisdiction and expertise. This activity ensures compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other environmental protection mandates. It also provides comments on the effects on environmental quality resulting from proposed legislation, regulations, guidelines, Executive Orders regarding wild and scenic rivers, national trails, wilderness, resource management plans and activities from other agencies, recreation composites, Federal surplus property transfers, and related projects and undertakings.

FY 2006 Base Program Overview

The Environmental Compliance and Review program determines guidelines for implementing NEPA actions related to NPS activities, and coordinates/consults with other Federal agencies when those agencies' activities affect NPS interests. The National Parks Service Environmental Compliance and Review activity supports the Department of the Interior's Strategic Plan goals to: "Protect the Nation's natural, cultural and heritage resources" and "Provide recreation opportunities for America" through its

mandate to exercise stewardship over properties acquired, developed, or preserved through NPS grant programs and to protect other areas, such as wild and scenic rivers, cultural sites, and segments of the National Trails System. Protection is achieved through application of a variety of existing environmental mandates such as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) licensing, and permits issued under section 404 of the Clean Water Act. This activity provides the NPS with information crucial to science-based decision making necessary to improve the health of, and sustain the biological communities on, the watersheds, landscapes, and marine resources it manages in a manner consistent with obligations regarding the allocation and use of water, the protection of cultural and natural heritage resources, and the provision of a quality recreation experience.

- With the passage of the Energy Policy Act of 1992, there is a requirement for increasing coordination with FERC in the review of new hydropower licenses in units of the NPS. FERC-related responsibilities in this activity focus primarily on regulatory compliance; mitigation and other resource protection measures are being addressed in the Hydropower Recreation Assistance component of the Natural Programs activity.
- In carrying out its responsibilities for NEPA compliance, the Environmental Compliance and Review Activity establishes the procedures governing the development of environmental evaluations of proposed NPS actions, including impacts to National Park System resources. In addition, this guidance provides for increased opportunities for public involvement and for participation by State, local, and tribal governments in development of NPS NEPA documents when those governments have special expertise in the impacts or issues resulting from an NPS proposal.
- The Park Service continues to seek improvements to ensure public involvement and civic engagement through new technological tools, including the publicly accessible Internet-based Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) information system. PEPC will provide the public with improved access to draft planning and compliance documents together with comment capabilities.

2004 Program Performance Accomplishments

- Implemented the Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) web-based information system allowing the NPS to manage project proposal planning documents and compliance procedures with Internet-based access for public review and comment (multi-park).
- Analyzed exotic plant management with emphasis on restoration of native species in South Florida and Caribbean parks (multi-park), and alternatives for elk management including testing for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) (multi-park).
- Completed assessment for alternative dispute resolution (ADR) for the Oregon Inlet EIS at Cape Hatteras NS.
- Completed NEPA compliance required for Personal Watercraft Plans required under court settlements for 15 parks (multi-park).

2005 Planned Program Performance

- **Initiate alternative dispute resolution (ADR) for negotiated rule making process concerning Off Road Vehicle Plan at Cape Hatteras NS.**
- Complete additional guidelines for efficiently conducting environmental analysis for general management plans, Federal highway projects, and NPS partnership projects (LWCF).
- Improve electronic review and distribution of environmental documents.

Justification of FY 2006 Budget Request for Environmental Compliance and Review

Request Component	\$ Amount	FTE
FY 2005 Budget Estimate	391	4
Programmatic Changes	+0	+0
TOTAL, Program Changes	+0	+0
Uncontrollable changes	+8	N/A
FY 2006 Budget Request	399	4
Net change	+8	+0

The FY 2006 budget request for Resource Stewardship is \$0.399 million and 4 FTE, an increase of \$0.008 million from the 2005 enacted level.

Performance Summary Tables: Environmental Compliance and Review

This Activity supports all natural and cultural resource protection goals shown in the ONPS Resource Stewardship Subactivity. It also supports Recreation goals shown in the ONPS Visitor Services Subactivity.